

**See
finals
schedule**

See page 3.

**Last day for
registration
Dec. 18**

**Last issue of the
Star until Jan. 28**

VALLEY STAR

Los Angeles Valley College

Vol. 45, No. 14

Thursday, December 10, 1992

Van Nuys, California

Priority registration defies 'Master Plan'

By ANNA L. VILLA
News Editor

Giving first-year and continuing students with defined majors first priority, in terms of enrollment, is a master plan for disaster critics say.

Jesse Hernandez, Valley's ASU president said the plan being toyed around by state community college officials is a direct attack on California's Master Plan for Higher Education. "It's limiting access for students and is in direct violation of the Master Plan," Hernandez said.

According to the Daily News, state community college officials are considering the plan in order to make up for the closure of the many classes that, this semester, shut out so many of the community college system's 1.5 million students statewide.

"They [officials] see a problem, that we're understaffed and underfunded and they're attacking students not the tax structure. They're weeding the students out covertly. No one wants to say it, no one wants to say 'we can't afford you.'" Hernandez said.

Under the plan, according to the Daily News, transfer students or those holding a vocational degree would receive first enrollment priority.

Of those students, continuing and recent high school graduates would rank first, followed by new and returning students without degrees and students holding bachelor's or higher degrees.

"They're choking us with one hand and hitting us with the other," Hernandez said. "They've doubled our fees by 100 percent in the past two years and they're ignoring the original Master Plan."

The Master Plan was mandated by the state legislature in 1959 in an effort to move the two-year college system to a higher level of education. It opened the doors for more people to return to school for retraining, and as a stepping stone for transfer students and high school dropouts.

"I was dissatisfied with the high school system and I was just happy to get in school knowing that I was doing something for myself—half of my council is like that," Hernandez said. The proposal would shutout students in similar situations he added.

Erica Hauck, student trustee, said her immediate reaction to the proposal is the state should not impose such a rule to the colleges. "It should be up to the college and the district in which it lies."

"Every college is demographically different. The student population on each campus will vary so much from one district to another...the campus should determine who is most in need, not the state," Hauck said.

Hernandez said Los Angeles Community College District officials have vowed to fight the proposal which will be presented to the Board of Governors next month, according to the Daily News. "We're lucky we have a Board of Trustees committed to fight it," Hernandez said.



NANCY VIGRAN / Valley Star

Jazzing up the airwaves

LAVC Jazz Band will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in Music Room 112. The LAVC Jazz Ensemble will also hold a performance, Monday, Dec. 13 at noon in Music Room 112. Both groups rehearse in music classes conducted by Professor Woody James. LAVC students are also welcome to sit-in during jazz rehearsals.

New EIC

Vigran returns to Star

By JENNIFER CASE
Opinion Editor

She's back!

After serving as the Editor in Chief for the last three issues of the spring semester, Nancy Vigran picked up the reigns again to guide the Star to new levels of success.

Out of three applicants, Vigran was unanimously chosen by department faculty because they agreed on her experience and leadership qualities.

"She's well qualified for the position. She has proven her ability and I'm looking forward to excellence in the coming semester," Roger Graham, Department Chairperson of Photography, Journalism/Media Arts, said.

Vigran, who describes herself as compassionate, said she thinks she is ready for the job.

"I have done the coursework at LAVC and I feel that I have good leadership qualities," she said. "I work well with other people."

Some of the necessary coursework included taking a class with now deceased journalism professor, Leo Garapedian.

The 10 weeks she spent in his class before he died had an important impact on her, Vigran said.

"He gave me the gift of realizing that if you want something bad enough you can go out and get it," she said.

Now serving as the associate editor for *Watchbird*, a non-profit avicultural magazine, Vigran also does other freelance work.

"One can make a living in something they enjoy," she said.

"She's well qualified for the position. She has proven her ability and I'm looking forward to excellence in the coming semester."

—Roger Graham

Not only does she enjoy photography, but her number one love is her "animals," she said. Her menagerie includes three horses and many birds (everything from parrots to finches) with whom she spends about four hours a day.

By "taking a class here and a class there," Vigran managed to earn a degree in liberal arts and photojournalism. Planning to transfer to Cal State Fresno, she hopes to obtain a B.A. in photojournalism.

For now, her focus is to produce a quality college newspaper.

Some of her plans include covering a wider span of the campus. In hopes to gear the publication more toward student interest, Vigran plans to have the new staff talk to teachers, students and faculty "night and day" to find out what interests them in a newspaper.

"My goal is to produce a newspaper that includes a wide variety of interests for its readers," she said.

During her short term as previous editor, she said she didn't have time to finish what she started, but she has many memories. Vigran had to jump into her first issue right as the L.A. riots began.

Many of the staff photographers went down to shoot material for a Gallery. Although the time was stressful, the excitement spread among the staff.

"I was energized," Vigran said, but was too tired the morning after her first issue came out to really rejoice in the success.

With time to prepare this time, her success seems to be insured based on past performances.

"I think she will be a strong leader in helping the Star on its way back up," Fall EIC, Anna Villa, said.

Experienced journalism student, Donna Ramos said she thinks Vigran is very conscientious and tries to do the best she can do.

"She knows how to talk to people," Ramos said. "That's the most important part of the job."

NEWS BRIEFS

Important dates for Spring semester '93

- Jan. 16 — Sat. classes begin.
- Jan. 19 — Evening classes begin.
- Jan. 20 — Day classes begin.
- Feb. 1 — Last day to receive refund of enrollment fees.
- Feb. 12 — Last day to drop without receiving a "W".
- Apr. 23 — Last day to drop classes.

New Horizons Center provides counseling, workshops and classes for single parents and returning homemakers. Classes offered in Spring include Personal Development Seminar and Career Planning. For information contact Barbara Goldberg, Director in Bungalow 14, ext. 332 or 246.



UZI ASHKENAZI / Valley Star

New EIC— Nancy Vigran appointed for Spring

Editorial

Extra! * Extra! * Extra! *

One last word before we leave

As this will be the last chance to communicate with our fellow students via the *Star*, the outgoing editorial staff would like to leave with some parting words of wisdom.

As each of you pursue your career and educational goals, be aware that your ideals and beliefs are precious, and easily manipulated by those whose standards are less high.

That integrity is a rare commodity, made more difficult because it is a threat to those who lack it.

That to take on the mindless motto, "Why ask Why?" is to condemn yourself to being at the mercy of those whose motives may not be in your best interest, and that the popular advice: "Don't make waves," will allow you to be easily drowned by those who do.

That no matter what personal penalties you may face for standing up for what you believe in, holding out for justice is always worth the cost.

That it takes courage to be a "whistle blower," but that even when condemned, dismissed, or not believed, a single voice, (such as Anita Hill's) can change the status quo forever.

And that even though those who are corrupt usually have more power than those who do not, many voices joined together to persevere against injustice can make a sound too loud to be ignored, and that the impact of their echo can be heard long after they are silent.



Car insurance laws still confusing

By TAMARA CHRISTIAN
Staff Writer

While tuition fees continue to skyrocket as the economy plummets, some students can't afford to pay for books let alone auto insurance.

Deemed just another unnecessary nuisance, books and food become a priority leaving these students unwillingly disobeying the law.

Insurance becomes a luxury. An automobile insurance survey taken from L.A.V.C. students resulted in frightening numbers, approx. 50 percent of the students who have an automobile do not have auto insurance.

To extend this survey onto the open road might not meet these same results. Not surprisingly, more night students had insurance than students who attend class in the daytime.

One reason for the difference could be attributed to the fact that most day jobs are "career" jobs which usually generate more in-

come. Night students, who usually work in bars/restaurants, or retail stores make significantly less money.

Although insurance is costly, some students who can afford to pay it, don't. According to the survey taken on Friday Dec. 4 in Mr. Pagns' Mathematics class some students shouted that "auto insurance is a rip-off and that its extortion."

L.A.V.C. students are not the only ones that are unhappy in talking with The State of California Insurance Department hotline operator (Tom).

"Every company has been reported by consumers for some thing at one time or another some companies a lot more than others," Tom said.

Bigger companies like State Farm and All State are at the top of the 50 most reported companies list of complaints.

Further information found added to the above foundation in the December 4 issue of the Daily News Business section an article indirectly displayed that people have a right to be upset, California Insurance

Commissioner John Garamendi said.

State Farm Insurance CO., the state's largest insurer, was "abandoning the poor by refusing to sell affordable policies to the state's inner-city residents."

In response Vice President of State Farm's California operation Roger Tompkins "denied that the company was under serving inner-city communities and blamed the lack of insurance on a crisis in insurance cost."

Either way you look at auto insurance, it's a rip-off with some policies costing up to 1,500.00 dollars a year or more.

Do you know that the company you're insured with is legitimate?

Is Proposition 100 Insurance Rates, Regulation initiative doing it's job since it was voted in by Californians in the 1988 election? Is our government's Department of Insurance reviewing and approving rates and rate changes adequately?

Unfortunately, the resounding answer form the students is no. Do you know who your insurance company really is?

Wilson runs education into ditch

• With Pete Wilson's term coming to an end soon, it is time to think about not re-electing him.

By ANNA L. VILLA
News Editor

He's still behind the wheel and he's bent on running our educational vehicle, if not the state, into a ditch.

This summer, Governor Pete Wilson showed Californians not only his disregard for education, but for the elderly and the poor. He formed a political stalemate with state legislature mainly over education, in which he was eager to implement steep tuition hikes and massive cutbacks, all of which, he theorized, would balance the state budget.

Meeting with tough resistance from state representatives, school officials, parents and students, Wilson was forced to back down, but not before he managed to significantly raise fees throughout the UC, CSU and community college systems.

Just a reminder: At community colleges registration fees for the spr-

ing semester rose from \$6 per unit with a \$60 cap to \$10 per unit with no cap.

Cutbacks in health care for the elderly and welfare were compounded in November's election by the threat of Prop. 165. Although Wilson's proposition did not pass, he blatantly showed his ignorance by suggesting that California was in a financial crisis because it was spending too much on the wrong things. The main wrongful expenditure, as identified by Wilson and Prop. 165 backers, is welfare.

But under the guise of Prop. 165 semantics was a plea for voters to grant the governor more power. It would allow the governor to reform the budget and welfare processes and to move welfare back towards its original purpose as a TEMPORARY SAFETY NET. Not a temporary way of life."

Plus, a clause in the proposal required the governor's approval of any override attempt and although proponents said Prop. 165 would protect education, another clause said no one could stop the governor from making cuts in education.

It may seem a moot point to

drudge up days-of-old but voters will once again make a trek to the polls in 1993 and one of the names

on the ballot in the governor's slot may be Pete Wilson's. Even if that is merely speculation, he may do it so be wary.

Yet that isn't enough. Being wary of one politician, whose track record is trod with mud, won't affect the rest of our money and power-hungry state and federal representatives. It may be hard to read past the campaign promises but Americans need to take a closer look at who they pick to lead our country. But foremost they must make it to the voting polls.

Voters must continuously keep tabs on leaders and through voting call them on their decisions. With the continuing downslide of economic and social issues we cannot afford to let rich bureaucrats get away with packing the middle and lower classes with taxes and increased fees.

It's not a quick remedy to all our ills but voting is the best weapon we have in our representative government.

So just one other reminder: Gov. Wilson is still behind the wheel.

Letter to the Editor

Counselor shortage acknowledged

The editorial on the counseling office in the November 19 issue of the *Star* offered welcome recognition of the severe understaffing of the counseling office and some of the adverse ramifications of that understaffing.

In that light, the article was valuable and appropriately supportive of our additional personnel needs.

However, the editorial's assumption that since counselors are so frequently "booked through the

week", they must not care about students, is ludicrous.

The fact that we counselors must handle overload volumes of students both in brief "drop-in" mode and in scheduled appointments demon-

strates not a lack of caring for the students, but rather our willingness to stretch ourselves as much as possible in the service of our valuable clientele.

LAVC counselors have a significantly heavier student-to-counselor ratio than at any of the other eight colleges in our district.

Particularly during rush periods, outside of scheduled appointments, we are limited to five-minute "drop-

in" sessions. The information we can provide in that short amount of time is still better than no information at all.

Much of the problem derives from students waiting until registration time to schedule an appointment with a counselor. In mid-semester, it is

easier to get an appointment.

The remainder of the problem is too few counselors, whether during or in between registration periods. With adequate staffing, we would be able to give full, intensive appointments to all 18,000 students who need and deserve them. In the current economic climate, though, the fact that students have at least some access to counselors should be heartening.

You do what you can with what you have.

Dr. Steven Mark Sachs
Counselor

Torment of abuse is widespread

I am writing in response to an article in last week's issue, "If Only She Could've Called." My ex-

husband almost led me to my death two years ago.

After all the overwhelming pain, suffering and torment of a trial, it is of no surprise to me that statistics show many women end up killing the batterer that continues to beat up on her.

It is extremely difficult for the women to break the pattern of power and control that the abusive partner overshadows her with.

It's time we all recognize the severity of the problem with domestic violence. A marriage license should not be a death certificate, neither should it be a certificate for a disability check for the rest of one's life.

My ex-husband threw me into a

brick wall and a sliding glass door after he beat me for about two hours.

I ran to the neighbors bleeding profusely. It was Halloween and they thought I was in a costume. I just had major upper back surgery and will have some disability for the rest of my life.

It is of no surprise to me that Yvonne Webb killed her husband. A grave injustice is being done to all victims.

My ex-husband was sentenced to thirty days in jail. Why was this woman sentenced to thirty years. She was only protecting her own life.

Joyce Unsworth

Valley Star



CNPA



JACC

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ACP All American Honors Achieved:
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LETTERS ★ LETTERS ★ LETTERS

The *Valley Star* is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The *Star* reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations.

Letters should be signed and include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the *Valley Star* office, Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.



FIRST AMENDMENT

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to a free and independent press, which is protected from undue political forces and restraint. Within the sphere of presses in colleges and universities, administrations at such institutions must preserve and protect the integrity and honesty of such presses. Any undue influence by any special interest group or university administrator or faculty person to change, restrain or censor editorial copy is nothing less than a complete abridgment

Phelps cancels police review

By JENNIFER CASE
Opinion Editor

Chancellor Donald G. Phelps cancelled the committee to evaluate and review police operations last week, after the the committee's existence and composition were questioned by campus police and union officials, according to his Dec. 3 memo.

After the formation of the committee "raised concerns" among college police captains, the police union leadership and rank and file officers, Phelps opted to refer the review process to "an outside consultant," according to his memo.

"I don't know what's going on in his [Phelps] head... We just don't understand."

—Leon Marzillier

"It was blown out of proportion. I didn't think he [Phelps] would do such an irrational thing," LAVC Police Captain, Karl Traber, said about the rumors to disband the police. "Staff and students would never go for it, anyway. They want to be protected," he said.

AFT Guild President, Leon Marzillier, who originally suggested that the committee have police representation, said he was pleased with the short term results. "I think we were successful in getting him to back down," he said.

Although the committee was cancelled, Marzillier still has questions. "We're still wondering what an outside consultant is. I don't know what's going on in his head," he said. "We just don't understand."

Phelps said the intent and purpose of the committee was just misunderstood. In his memo, Phelps said he believes the police are performing in an "exemplary manner," but "it is essential that we look at all support services of the district to include police."

Marzillier agrees that all operations should be examined to save costs, but doesn't understand why Phelps continues to scrutinize the police.

At the last D-PAC meeting, Marzillier said that Phelps said some "bad things about the police that were out of line."

"He is again attacking the police," he said. "It's not like he harps on other things."

The District Director of Public Affairs, Fausto Capobianco, said other aspects of campus services are being examined, too. A committee to review cafeteria performance on each campus has already been formed.

"The campus police protect very valuable property. We're concerned he [Phelps] is not appreciating police as he should be."

—Leon Marzillier

"The police are a big ticket," Capobianco said. "You can't calculate cost by salary alone. You have to look at benefits."

According to Capobianco, the police are regarded as "safety officials" and receive greater benefits than the average employee.

"The campus police protect very valuable property," Marzillier said. "We're concerned he [Phelps] is not appreciating police as he should be."

NEWS BRIEFS

Extended library hours

Valley's library will extend its weekend hours during finals week beginning Dec. 12/13 and Dec. 19/20.

- Sat. and Sun. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Mon. to Thurs. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Fri. 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Funds for the extra hours were made available through ASU. The library will close Dec. 23 and will reopen the first day of the spring semester

ASU elections

Voting for the spring semester ASU commissioner posts is going on now and will last until I don't know when. The following is a list of candidates:

- Commissioner of Athletics — Carlos Cueva
- Commissioner of Campus Improvements — Melanie Weber
- Commissioner of Disabled Awareness — Ragna Vidar
- Commissioner of Fine Arts — Joe Slepak
- Commissioner of Native Americans — Enrique Lepe
- Commissioner of Public Relations — Donald Graham
- Commissioner of Scholastic Activities — Sarah Collett
- Commissioner of Women's Concerns — Melvy A. Murguia
- Commissioner of Social Activities — Rafael Martinez

Free seminar for women victims of violence

The Forte Foundation, a non-profit organization, will be holding a free seminar Saturday, Jan. 9 at CSUN for women who have fallen victim to violence. Two sessions will be held that day and will focus on prevention, legal counseling and will provide free therapy.

The first session lasts from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and another will begin at 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m..

For more information or seat reservations, contact Jason Rind at the Forte Foundation:

(818) 905-8266.

Department of Energy gives a boost to college students

Fellowship money is available for students interested in pursuing master's or doctoral degrees in areas such as health physics, environmental restoration and waste management.

The U.S. Department of Energy is offering thousands of dollars through graduate fellowship programs to help students pursue their educational careers. For more information contact Tom Richmond of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education at:

P.O. Box 117,
Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37831-0117.

Employment office offers student assistant program

The state employment office is welcoming college students currently enrolled in six or more units to help unemployment applicants fill out forms, answer questions and help at-risk youths find jobs.

Students will be trained and can earn from \$6.88 to \$7.50 per hour. Work hours are flexible.

For more information contact Melissa Goodearle, recruiter of students assistants, at the State Employment Office in Glendale in the development department at: (818) 409-0461.

Or pick up an application at: 1255 So. Central Ave..

FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE FALL SEMESTER 1992

December 15, 1992 to December 23, 1992.

Except for classes of less-than-semester length, THE LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION FOR ALL DAY AND EVENING CLASSES is Monday, December 14, 1992. Classes which meet only one day per week will have their final exam at the first regular class meeting after December 14.

Classes of less-than-semester length will have their final exam at the last class meeting.

All evening classes (4 p.m. and later) will have their final exam as follows:

Monday classes: December 21
Tuesday classes: December 15
Wednesday classes: December 16
Thursday classes: December 17

Final examinations MUST be held on the DAY AND TIME SCHEDULED in regularly assigned classrooms and should not exceed two hours in duration. The date of the final exam is determined by the first day and first hour a class meets.

To use the schedule below, locate the day and hour of your class on the grid. In case of problems or conflicts, see the instructor.

Final Exam Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8-10 am		DEC 15 7 & 7:30 am T or Th	DEC 16 8 & 8:30 am M, W, or F	DEC 17 8 & 8:30 am T or Th	DEC 18 9 & 9:30 am M, W, or F	DEC 19 All Saturday Classes
10:30 am-12:30 pm		10 & 10:30 am T or Th	11 & 11:30 am M, W or F	11 & 11:30 am T or Th	12 & 12:30 pm M, W or F	
1-3 pm		1 & 1:30 pm T or Th	1 & 1:30 pm M, W or F	2 & 2:30 pm T or Th	2 & 2:30 pm M, W or F	
Final Exam Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8-10 am	DEC 21	DEC 22 9 & 9:30 am T or Th	DEC 23 7 & 7:30 am M, W or F			
10:30 am-12:30 pm	10 & 10:30 am M, W or F	12 & 12:30 pm T or Th				
1-3 pm	3 & 3:30 pm M, W or F	3 & 3:30 pm T or Th				

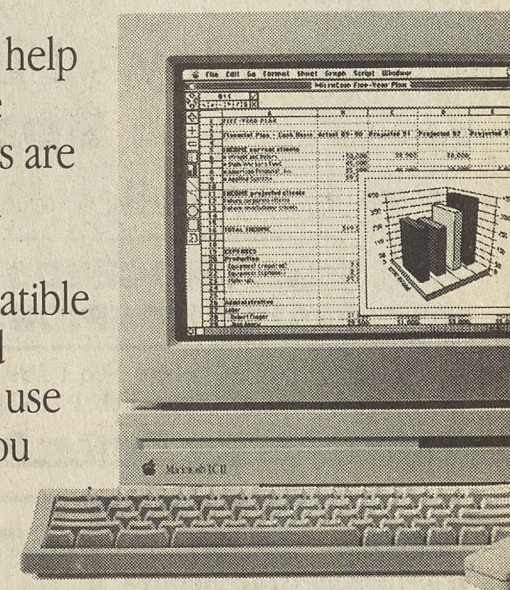


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Macintosh. It's more than a present, it's a future.



For more information contact Craig or Liz at

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818/785-5992

Monday-Thursday, 7:30am-7:15pm; Friday, 7:30am-3:45pm



UZI ASHKENAZI / Valley Star

DIFFICULT TIMES— "It is not going to be easy, Joseph will not accept the child." The Man in Grey (left, Mayyer Bilal) tells the angel (Tod King.)

Butterfingers Angel, et al makes for fun spoof of Christ's birth

By BOB OWEN
Staff Writer

In light of the modern-day absence of miracles and the ever-increasing need for one, the LAVC Christmas production of *The Butterfingers Angel, Mary and Joseph, Herod the Nut, and the Slaughter of 12 Hit Carols in a Pear Tree*, succeeds in its down-to-earth portrayal of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Although the play probably will not be going to New York or Broadway anytime soon, the performances are charmingly acted nonetheless.

The *Butterfingers Angel*, neurotically portrayed by Tod King, exemplifies the ambivalence with which these famous characters embrace the miracle of Christ's birth. King manages to bring a Woody Allen-esque quality to his character, providing reasonable doubt as to whether Christ will be born at all.

The play was written by the author of, "The Miracle Worker," William Gibson, and is directed by Kathryn Naylor Milton. Milton's direction makes excellent use of the considerably large stage, both in positioning the actors and providing interesting lighting.

The Virgin Mary is played with contemporary zeal by Karen Podrasky. Podrasky gives the young, single Mary a strong sense of female liberation made possible only by her own experiences as a young woman living in the 1990s. Once Mary realizes her destiny as the Mother of Jesus Christ, Podrasky successfully reflects the character's divine transition.

Joseph, perhaps the most accurately cast, is played by Jim Crogan. Crogan successfully bridges the gap between serious concern for his and Mary's predicament and the Author's comedic intent.

The story's infamous "bad guy," King Herod, is humorously played by Danny Kusuoki. Kusuoki portrays Herod as an eccentric fool, but with a sense of irony. Ranting and raving about Christ being a threat to the "messianic hope" of an entire people, Kusuoki crash lands, kamikaze-style, into center stage.

The play also features up-tempo renditions of famous Christmas Carols which add to the comedic theme.

Also featured are fine performances by the rest of the cast making the play perhaps the most enjoyable holiday spoof since, "The Grinch That Stole Christmas."

Music Dept. presents holiday season program

By ROBERT MAIZE
Staff Writer

Using the holiday season for its theme, the LAVC Music Department presented a diverse concert of vocal music, last Thursday, that included Christmas and Hanukkah songs, American spirituals, and a calypso version of "Jingle Bells."

The College Choir, conducted by Dianne Wintrub, began the program with an 18th century madrigal, "Alleluia," followed by a contemporary composition, "Hanukkah Lights." Accompanied by pianist Hae Sun Berwin, the 19-member ensemble sang with enthusiasm and precision.

Soprano Maria Flores was the featured soloist on a modern Christmas song, "O Come to my Heart, Lord Jesus." Swaying slowly to the somber music, she sang with

clear and powerful authority.

On "Jingle Bells Calypso," the choir was aided by percussion and electric bass for an arrangement that was like a Caribbean sleigh ride.

For the second part of the recital, conductor George Attarian and the Chamber Singers took the stage and performed an energetic a cappella round by 20th century composer Benjamin Britten.

On "San Sereni," a singing game from Puerto Rico, the group used rhythm instruments and playful sound effects to recreate the sounds of village life.

Soloist Aaron Bowers led a call-and-answer arrangement of an American spiritual, "Listen to the Angels." Another song featured Keith Ackley in a poignant and mournful solo.

The two groups combined for the final numbers and the audience participated in a rendition of "Silent Night."

High energy, straight-ahead jazz performed

By ROBERT MAIZE
Staff Writer

"This one is for Lawrence Welk," said tenor saxophonist, John Newsome, with a sly smile.

The irony was that the music he and his quintet played Tuesday afternoon in the LAVC rehearsal hall bore little resemblance to the schmaltzy sounds of the late bubble-meister, Welk.

What they played was high energy, straight-ahead jazz in a program of standard songs and original compositions with a minimum of arrangements and a maximum of solo improvisations.

Sharing the stage with Newsome were Ron Stout, trumpet and flugelhorn, Paul Moer, piano, Ken Filiano, bass fiddle, and Jerry

Kalaf, drums.

The highlight of the first set was Newsome's "Last Night in Babylon." Played at a wildly fast tempo, the group sped through the maze of chord changes and shifted rhythms like an urban light-rail train powered by be-bop pistons.

On the standard ballad, "I Should Care," Stout played the lead on flugelhorn with a throaty, bubbly tone while Newsome wove a ribbon of harmony around the melody with his warm, fuzzy-sounding saxophone.

Pianist Moer's solos alternated between rapid-fire, single-note passages and clusters of notes that created icy pools of dissonance.

Filiano and Kalaf kept the music chugging along with a subtle, yet solid rhythmic feeling, unobtrusively supporting the soloists.

'X'— erasing negative stigmas

By JENNIFER CASE
Opinion Editor

As the screen showed an American flag burning into the shape of an "X," Spike Lee began to craft a story.

X is a true story about a controversial man. This should not have been a difficult task for one of the most controversial directors in Hollywood. But although telling his story wasn't difficult, Lee quickly found out that making the film would be.

According to *Entertainment Weekly*, Lee seized control from the original director, Norman Jewison, the director of *Moonstruck*, and set the stage for a topsy-turvy production. Apparently, despite reported turmoil, Lee didn't stop for anything or anyone.

Lee went \$5 million over his \$28 million budget, so he kicked in \$2 million of his \$3 million salary. And in the "Do for self" spirit of Malcolm X, he solicited funds from Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan when Warner would not let him have his way.

According to *Ebony*, other conflicts arose over the length of the movie. Facing the harsh reality of having to leave some footage on the cutting room floor, Lee managed to shorten it to a whopping three hours and 27 minutes.

As with other powerful individuals, Malcolm was intensely scrutinized and constantly questioned.

The end result, is a powerful portrayal of Malcolm X, played by Denzel Washington, who claims to like a "low-profile," but made a new and even bigger name for himself after the movie came out.

Washington bore such an uncanny likeness to the real Malcolm, it was hard to distinguish the two. While studying the role, Washington watched endless tapes of his speeches perfecting intonations and mannerisms. Coupled with the movie's humanistic approach to Malcolm, Washington's very con-

vincing performance made the movie even stronger.

Skillfully using his poetic license, Lee successfully managed to help erase the negative stigma attached to Malcolm by showing the story behind the headlines.

As with other powerful individuals, Malcolm was intensely scrutinized and constantly questioned. As I began to sympathize with Malcolm, I learned what it felt to feel sharp forbidding stares brought on by color.

But perhaps the most welcome realization was when the meaning of X was explained. In Mathematics, an X stands for the unknown. Malcolm chose to replace his master-given name with an X. X stood for heritage lost but not forgotten. X stood for pride, brotherhood and unity.

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Fast and Easy Recipes for Students who have little time or money but need great-tasting nutrition that doesn't come out of a candy-wrapper from:
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Buffalo Chip Cookies
Preheat oven to 350 degrees In a large bowl cream shortening, butter, sugar, milk & vanilla. Add eggs & blend well. In a medium bowl combine flour, baking powder, baking soda & salt. Add flour mixture gradually to creamed mixture, blend well. Stir in oats, cornflakes, choc. chips, nuts & coconut, blend well. Scoop a heaping tbsp of dough on to a greased cookie sheet 3 inches apart & bake at 350 degrees for 18-20 mins. or until edges are lightly browned but soft in center. Cool 3-5 mins on cookie sheet before removing with a wide pancake turner to cooling rack.
1/2 cup Shortening/melted (Crisco)
1/2 cup Butter/melted
1 cup Sugar
1 cup Brown sugar/packed
2 tbsp Milk
1 tsp Vanilla
2 Eggs
2 cups Flour
1 tsp Baking powder
1 tsp Baking soda
1/2 tsp Salt
1 cup Quick oats/uncooked
1 cup Cornflakes/crushed to 1/2 cup
1 cup Semi-sweet choc. chips
1/2 cup Chopped pecans or walnuts
1/2 cup Flaked coconut

Celebrating Festival of Lights

By ZEV GARBER
and ROBERT FINKEL
Special to the Star
and Staff Writer

It's time to celebrate the Festival of Lights, the Jewish holiday known as Hanukkah that falls in December, sometimes close to Christmas, like this year when it falls on December 20.

Hanukkah is not a major religious event like its Christian counterpart. As a matter of fact the details of the eight-day celebration are unfamiliar to many people, whether or not they are Jewish, and the holiday deserves some examination.

The word itself means "dedication" and relates because the altar of the Temple had to be rededicated after a Roman consul had sacrificed unclean animals on it. The ancient family of Judah, the Macabees, offered music, songs and praises to heaven to reclaim the Temple of Jerusalem. This was about 230 years before other Romans would destroy the temple for ever.

The heart of the celebration is the daily lighting of candles for eight consecutive days. This stems from a legend that developed later of Macabees finding only one small jar of oil to conduct services. The legend contends that the oil, miraculously, burned for eight days instead of the one day that it was expected to last.

Today's Hanukkah celebrations—especially in America—have taken on a few other dimensions. For instance, the origination of a "Hanukkah Bush" has no basis in any tradition and seems to be only imitating the Christmas tree, which evolved from pagan traditions!

The utensil, used to hold the Hanukkah candles, a menorah, is the national symbol of the state of Israel. This stems from the political overtones associated with Hanukkah, the reclaiming of the Temple and sovereignty over the land, and of a victory of the few over the many.

There is no basis either for gift-giving, which is another Americanized activity that appears to have more of a purpose in "keeping up" with Christmas than anything else.

The modern Jewish propensity towards voluntarism, pluralism, nondogmatic rituals and celebrations, and especially orientation to ethics and morals is an attempt to Judaize America.

How so? By taking parochial Jewish ideals and universalizing them, makes them appear "American." This gives the impression, knowingly or not, that Jewishness and Americanism are compatible if not synonymous.



Merry Christmas

Holiday is more than presents

By RONIT LE MON
Staff Writer

As a child growing up in Los Angeles, I always loved Christmas. I loved the lights on the streets, the gifts in the window and the idea of Santa Claus coming down the chimney to reward good little kids with presents.

Perhaps what really made me love it, was the fact that my family was Jewish. Actually, my family was not only Jewish, but Israeli, so I couldn't even have the tree that my American-Jewish friends so happily dubbed their "Hanukkah Bush."

Christmas meant to me the one great holiday I was excluded from. So, as I got older, I attended Mid-night Mass and practiced carols with all my gentile friends, much to the embarrassment of my family.

This year for me is no exception. It is the second year that I have my very own Christmas tree. And the other day I joyfully decorated it with the special crystal ornaments that I bought and watched my wonderful non-Jewish boyfriend string the lights.

But, when I think about it, Christmas is more than just lights and gifts, even though that's what the shops and tree lots want you to think. It is a religious holiday with religious significance to millions of Christians everywhere.

December 25 has always been a

special date to people. It began before the birth of Christ with the onset of Pagan religions. In the Pagan world, the date was celebrated as the day of the birth of the unconquered sun. It was the holiday for the reverence of the source of life and was celebrated with feasting, fires and gifts.

The most unique aspect of the day was that all classes were leveled and master and slave alike sat together as equals. After the feasts, most of the people would slip off into the night to enjoy an evening of lovemaking under the stars. Children born of this holiday were always considered blessed by the tribes for they were said to be divinely inspired.

Around the time of Bishop Julius I of Rome, 337 - 352 A.D., the birth of Christ was switched to this date. It is estimated that the actual birthday of Jesus was around April 25.

The switch was made because Rome was finding it difficult to stop the populace from celebrating the old holidays. Even as other Pagan dates faded into obscurity with the conversion to Christianity, December 25 remained strong. It was this political reason that prompted the Bishop to knowingly place the Birth of the Christian Saviour on a fictitious date.

The concept of the Christmas tree as we know it came about much later.

The tree is a descendent of the winter solstice "Paradise Tree" that originated in Germany. The concept of a decorated tree was brought to the new world by German settlers in Pennsylvania in the 1800s.

Religiously, the day of Christmas is symbolic. It symbolizes the miracle of the birth of the Christ to the Virgin Mother and the three wise men who followed a star to the manger to bless him. It is an integral part of the folklore and mythology that supports the Christian religion and gives impetus to the mystical belief of Jesus as the Messiah.

To me, as a mainstream Christmas celebrator, it is a time for family, albeit not my own. It is the one time out of the year when people come together in love and show each other that they care. It is a time for helping the unfortunate through donations of toys, food or more simply, prayer.

Christmas means a lot to me, not just because I was denied it as a child, but because it is the one time when the whole world seems to slow down for a moment and enjoy the simpler pleasures of life. Sure, it also means careening around stores, looking for the perfect gift as some person behind runs you over with their shopping cart. Sure, when it's all over, I forget the frustration. I forget the price-tags. All I remember is the love.



Happy Hanukkah

By JAE LEVINE WEISS
Entertainment Editor

Our faces glowed golden, reflecting the light of tiny oval flames crowning our menorah. My sister and I took turns lighting the candles. Our mother nervously hovered behind us, murmuring "Careful, careful, don't burn yourself."

We were required to continue singing, "Oh Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah, come light the menorah..." while one of our parents disappeared into the hall closet, and re-emerged carrying two packages wrapped in blue and white paper.

The presents were mostly inexpensive treats; coloring books, bubble bath, board-games, picture books. Less exciting were the practical gifts like mittens and sweaters. On the last night we usually got something "big"; a much-coveted dollhouse, life-size dolls, roller skates that clamped onto our shoes with a key.

The religious meaning of the holiday hardly mattered to us. What was really important to my little sister and me was the purely decadent nightly ritual of wonderful smelling foods and gaily-wrapped gifts, and the titillating danger of lighting the crayon-colored candles.

The reason for this "festival of lights" was only briefly explained. I only knew it had something to do with a "sacred eternal light" that

only had enough oil to last one day, but had somehow managed to stay lit through eight days until more fuel arrived.

We never really wondered why it had been so important not to let the flame burned out. To two eager little girls, the only real question had been, "what do you think we'll get tonight?"

It wasn't until six years ago, during a year of personal crisis, that a spiritual connection to the story of the starving flame came to have deep meaning for me.

It had been a year of fighting to hold onto the memory of joy, of sustaining any hope that I would ever know anything but fear or sorrow. The world had crashed in on me. Every light at the end of the tunnel turned out to be one more train. The gloom of empty holidays threatened to push me over the edge.

Still, I bought a box of Hanukkah candles and dug my old menorah out of the closet for the sake of my son, who deserved the same silly ritual of candles and gifts, even if it was just a pretense on my part.

In some households, it is traditional to begin with eight candles on the first night, progressively working down to one. In our family, we observed the eight days by adding an extra candle to the menorah each night, so that by the last night the entire candelabra was ablaze.

It occurred to me that this ever-brightening fire seemed to oppose the story of the dwindling fuel supply, as

the eternal light struggled to burn.

And suddenly I realized, on the eighth night of Hanukkah during my year of darkness, that what we were celebrating was the fury of faith against odds.

Ignited by the determined blaze of that chorus of light, for the first time I felt spiritually connected to the ritual I had superficially participated in all of my life.

The first cleansing tears came to me. I realized then that within me burned my own eternal flame. So much had happened which might have extinguish my internal candle, and yet it still flickered; waiting in the wind for fuel to sustain it. The oil to keep burning would eventually come. If I could hold on, I would also survive.

I desperately needed to save this new feeling which had been kindled. I tentatively picked up a pen. By the light of my menorah, out flowed one of the first poems I would ever see published, beginning the writing career which I hope to continue for the rest of my life.

My son is now grown, in a home of his own. My own family has soundlessly scattered to the winds. Sadness sweeps over me from time to time, and life can still seem hard.

But I have never again felt the unique chill of that winter. The tiny golden ovals of those Hanukkah candles had set a bonfire ablaze inside my frozen soul. My pen has not been still since that first little poem. I have never again succumbed to the dark.

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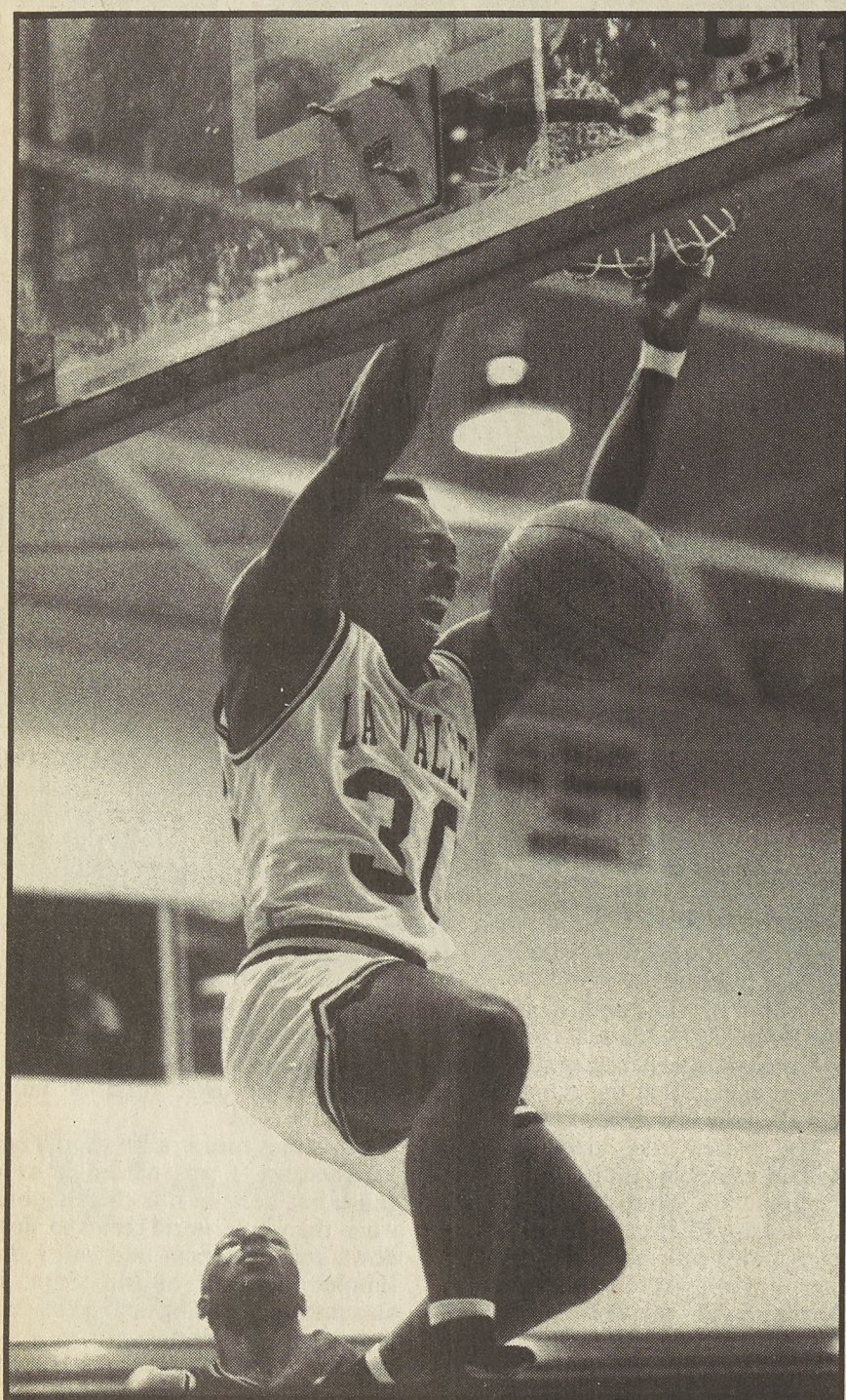


A FEW GOOD MEN

KEVIN BACON KIEFER SUTHERLAND KEVIN POLLAK

AT THEATERS DECEMBER 11

Pirates pillage Monarchs, while Women take consolation prize



BOB LA CATTIVA / Valley Star

SLAMMIN' IT HOME— Joe Mauldin nails two of his total 25 points with emphasis. But he couldn't do it all in the 81-63 loss to Ventura.

By DANA MEADOR
Staff Writer

Practice makes perfect as the story goes. What's good for one team may be different for another. Basketball is a unit of five players that work together for a common goal. The goal is to win and play heads up basketball.

Men

Men's basketball has had close games, but costly turnovers and poor shooting have been in a way, overshadowing the potential of this team. "We're trying to get the team to take higher percentage shots," said Coach Jim Stephens.

The Monarch's have been playing inspired defense, holding opponents under 68 points. However, their shooting woes have placed them in jeopardy with an average of 66 points. "The season is not over and our goal to make it to the playoffs is still in sight," Stephens said.

Ventura 8-0, defeated the Monarch's 0-9, by 18 points in a 81-63 game. The Monarch's were outscored in the first half by 14 points. The Monarch's scored 35 second half points but it was not enough because Ventura scored 39 of their own.

Leading the Monarch's in the scoring column were Freshmans Joe Mauldin with 25 and Wayne Carlisle who finished the game with 14 points.

Women

Learning the game is a must and the Lady Monarchs have managed to take their game to the next level. With one loss at the Sequoias Invitational Tournament, the Lady Monarchs came away with a consolation prize.

Enthusiasm and hardwork have paid off for this talented team. Beside a desire to win games, several players have said they just love to play basketball. "They are willing to learn the basics and apply them to their games," said Head Coach Doug Michelson.

Three full time coaches are responsible for finding those right mixtures that have made the Lady Monarchs natural talent explosive.

"An athlete that comes to this program will be treated with respect," said Michelson. Many of the players that come to this program are recruited from the area.

"Recruitment of athletes is essential to the stability of a winning program," Michelson said. Women's basketball has experienced success off the court as well. "Ninety percent of the athletes graduate and go on to four year programs," Michelson said.

During the months of December and January, both squads will continue to play games and keep their eyes focused on the championships.

Basketball profile

Dynamic force Horst leads Lady Monarchs

By ANNA VILLA
News Editor

Lean and sinewy but packed with a dynamic force that has accented Valley's powerful women's basketball team for two seasons, Amy Horst is already exploding with the starting buzzer.

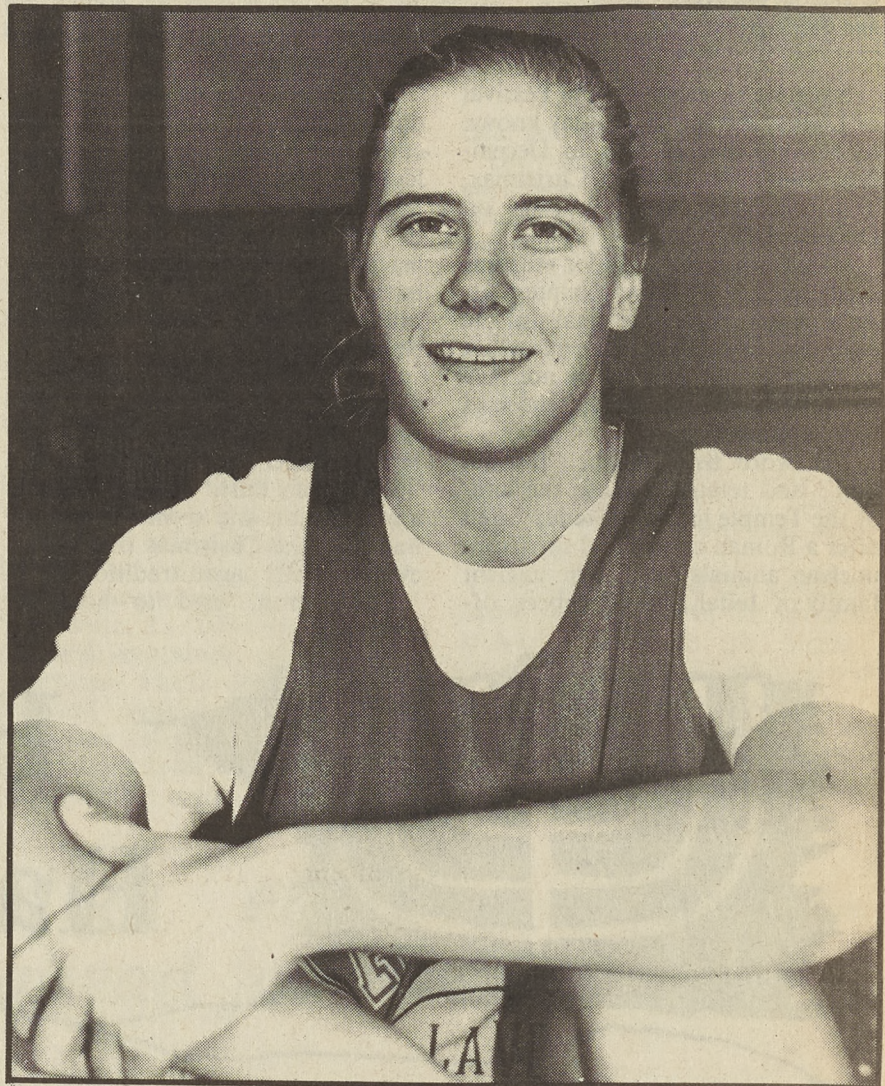
Tipping off the season by tallying 31 points and 35 rebounds to lead the Monarchs in a 3-0 start, Horst was named Most Valuable Player in the Mt. Sac Tip-off Tournament and has been dubbed Athlete of the Month for November.

Resting her six-foot lanky frame on a bench, Horst said she was surprised about being named athlete of the month, "I don't play [basketball] to get awards like that...I just play for the satisfaction of being part of the team," she said.

The 19 year-old center for the Monarchs has been playing the game for only five seasons but has managed to reap many rewards from her skills, most of which rest in her rebound ability, she said. Last year she was the third leading rebounder in the conference averaging 8.2 r.p.g. At Cleveland High, Horst was all-city for two years and Co-MVP of her league last year.

The two-year level has been more satisfying for her because, she said, she likes the harder level of competition. "In basketball it's gotta be the five players working on the court and the team on the bench, one can't slack off because then it's like a five-on-four game - It's gotta be everybody or else there's less chance of winning," she said.

Although she is still a novice in the game, it essentially replaced her first love, softball. She is still holding on to softball, which she has played as shortstop for 12 years, by squeezing in time to compete for Pierce. "I like softball, I don't want to let it go but basketball is fast-moving, more exciting. Softball has become a recreational sport. Basketball is tiring but really exciting."



UZI ASHKENAZI / Valley Star

Lady Monarch Amy Horst

Horst said.

There was an undecided moment this semester because Horst had not wanted to play basketball because of the overwhelming feat of juggling 12 units of schoolwork, basketball, softball and her job fueling private airplanes at Van Nuys Airport on the weekends. Her parents goaded her on and she decided to stick it out this season.

Horst said she would like to win a scholarship for basketball and is shooting to make the clubs at either Colorado State, UC Davis or Cal

Poly San Luis Obispo. Her long range plans lie in becoming a veterinarian and landing a spot at Colorado State would be the ideal since it has excellent pre-veterinarian and veterinarian programs, "and the location is just so nice - it's beautiful there," she said.

Horst is confident about her skills although she needs to work on her dribbling she said with a smile.

This season will be her last as a Monarch and she said the team has a good chance of getting further than last year's season.

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME *
Women's Basketball		
12/12	Sacramento City	2p.m. H
12/15	Long Beach	7p.m. H
12/18-20	Coast Christmas Tourn	TBA A
12/27-30	Fullerton Invit. Tourn.	TBA A
01/02	Ventura	5:30 H
01/05	Moorpark	5:30 A
01/07	Compton	5:30 H
Men's Basketball		
12/10,11	L.A. Valley Tourn.	7p.m. H
12/22	Moorpark	7:30★ H
12/28-30	College of the Desert Tourn.	TBA A
01/06	El Camino	★ H
01/09	Santa Barbara	★ A
01/13,	Cuesta	★ H
01/16	Oxnard	★ A

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